(b) whether it is a fact that this trend may have a bearing on the fall in the netting of prawns and pomfrets in recent years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this phenomenon is aggravated by pollution from fertilizer run offs entering the western water; and

(d) if so, the steps Governments proposed to take to check the depletion in marine life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), in view of fish mortalities observed in Mumbai during October 2005, the MPCB had got studies carried out through Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mumbai Centre and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute Nagpur. The study report revealed that low prices combined with bumper landings of catfish forcing the fish traders to discard the rotten catch after removal of air bladders and slow swimmers like eels in intense upwelling, getting trapped and washed ashore in dead condition, were the reasons for fish mortalities. The other reasons for low fish catch were reported to be loss of breeding areas, reduced flushing and pollution particularly in urbanized areas like Mumbai Metropolitan region, fishing by mechanized trawlers in excess of regeneration capacity and illegal fishing in some areas during breeding period.

(c) and (d) Both Maharashtra and Goa Pollution Control Board have reported negligible pollution from fertilizer run offs.

To curb pollution from industrial sources, besides action taken as per provisions of water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by the MPCB, well designed marine outfalls, Common Effluents Treatment Plants(CETPs) and common Hazardous Wastes Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities(CHWTSDF), are some of the infrastructures projects implemented particularly in Konkan (Coastal areas) of the Maharashtra State.

Air pollution in Delhi

1868. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board and the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata has found disturbing

trends on air pollution related respiratory symptoms affecting approximately 46 per cent people living in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether many more such studies are proposed to be conducted in other metropolitan cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The interim findings of the studies indicate higher incidence of respiratory symptoms among the residents of Delhi. However, there is no conclusive data available to establish cause-effect relationship between the manifestations of various respiratory ailments and the air pollution.

(c) to (e) Central Pollution Control Board has also sponsored other epidemiological studies *viz.* (i) Effects of environmental pollution on the status of human health of Delhi residents by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, (ii) Human risk assessment studies in asbestos industries in India by Industrial Toxicology Research Central, Lucknow, (iii) Health status of conservancy staff and other community associated with municipal solid wastes management in Kolkata by Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, and (iv) Health status of conservancy staff and other community associated with municipal solid wastes management in Chennai by Sri Ramchandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai.

Strategy for cleansing/recleansing the rivers

1869. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased state:

(a) whether Government have devised any fresh strategy to cleanse/ recleanse the rivers of the country in the light of the experience gained in this regard from the earlier programmes/projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?